

NEW MEXICO PLACE NAMES

A GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

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Domestic Geographic Names
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DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

unfriendly people which caused the Great Spirit to send a stone ship to carry them to this spot; another is that they were brought by a great bird which was turned into stone when the mission was finished; the third is that the Navajos were cast up from the earth at this spot and the ship is a symbol of their voyage. All these stories may be modern, since there is no mention of any of them in *An Ethnologic Dictionary of the Navajo Language* (1910) or in Mary Wheelwright's *Navajo Creation Myth* (1942). Post office, 1904—. SHIPROCK HILL (Union). On S side of US 64, 13 mi W of Oklahoma line. The hill is of dark red sandstone formation, having a strong resemblance, when seen from the W side, to the prow of a ship. It rises to about 350 ft.

SHOEMAKER (Mora). Ranching and farming community 3 mi S of US 85, 19 mi SW of Wagon Mound. Named for Capt. W. R. Shoemaker, Civil War ordnance officer at Ft. Union near Las Vegas. He was esteemed and respected by the civilian population as well as by the military. Post office, 1882-1957. SHOEMAKER CANYON, E. of Ft. Union Military Reserve, also bears his name.

SIA (Sandoval). Post office, 1906-08; mail to James. See ZIA.

SIBLEY (San Miguel). Post office, 1903-09; mail to Las Vegas.

SIDE PRONG (Sierra). Small stream entering Holden Prong, 8 mi NW of Kingston. In southern Appalachians and farther S and W, "prong" means a branch of a stream or inlet.

SIEGA (Curry). On AT&SF RR, 4 mi E of Clovis.

SIENEGA. See CIENEGA.

SIERRA. Span., "saw." Presumably named for the Sierra de los Caballos Range. In Spain the word applies to high, sawtooth mountains and it was appropriately transferred to the Southwestern ranges by the Spanish colonists. The term has been adopted into the English language. It is also a family name. Nicolas de la Sierra, a native of Spain, lived at Guadalupe del Paso in the middle of the eighteenth century, and moved to Santa Fe around 1766. Members of his family could be found in the N region of El Paso. SIERRA BLANCA MOUNTAIN (Otero). Span., "white ridge." 7 mi NW of Ruidoso and 1 mi S of Lincoln County line. So named because it is snow-capped for a large part of the year. Elevation 12,003 ft; southernmost point in U.S. on which Arctic life zone con-

ditions exist. Also known as OLD BALDY. SIERRA BLANCA RIDGE (Rio Arriba). Snow-covered most of the year. SIERRA CITY (Sierra). See LAKE VALLEY. SIERRA COLORADO (Valencia). "Red." SIERRA COUNTY. Created by Territorial Legislature on Apr. 3, 1884. Presumably named for the mountain range within its limits. Area is 3,118 sq mi. SIERRA DE CENIZAS (Otero-Eddy). "Ashes." See GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS. SIERRA DE LAS UVAS (Doña Ana). "Grapes." S of Hatch. Probably named for wild grapes that grow in the canyons. SIERRA DE LA VENTANA (Socorro). "Window." Near Los Ladrones Mts. Named for the shape of a window seen in one of its walls. SIERRA DEL CRISTO REY (Doña Ana). "Christ the King." Formerly known as EL CERRO DE LOS MULEROS. In southernmost tip of NM just outside El Paso, Tex. On it stands a 45-ft statue of Christ. SIERRA DEL ORO (Santa Fe). "Gold." Peak in Ortiz Mts. Named because of a gold strike in 1833. SIERRA DE LOS CABALLOS (Sierra). See CABALLO MOUNTAINS. SIERRA DEL SACRAMENTO (Otero). See SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS. SIERRA DE SAN LAZARO (Santa Fe). See ORTIZ MOUNTAINS. SIERRA DE SAN MATEO (Valencia). See SAN MATEO MOUNTAINS. SIERRA DIABLO (Sierra). "Devil." SIERRA GRANDE MOUNTAIN (Union). On US 85, in NW part of county. A symmetrical basaltic cone more than 40 mi around the base and said to be the largest individual mountain in North America. SIERRA LA ESCOBA (Valencia). See BROOM MOUNTAIN. SIERRA MONTOSA (Socorro). "Rugged." SIERRA MOSCA (Santa Fe). "Fly." SIERRA MUJER (Valencia). "Woman." Near SIERRA MUJER PEAK. Site of a school built by the WPA for children of scattered homesteads nearby. SIERRA NACIMIENTO (Rio Arriba, Sandoval). "Birth of Christ." In north-central part of county, extending N into Rio Arriba. See NACIMIENTO. SIERRA NEGRA (Harding). "Black." On W bank of Ute Creek in central part of county. SIERRA OSCURA (Socorro). "Dark." So named because the undergrowth and lava make them look dark. A part of this range is in SW corner of Lincoln County, and the rest, in Socorro County, has some copper mines. SIERRA RICA (Hidalgo). "Rich." Name of a settlement and a mountain. SIERRA SOMBRERO (Sierra). "Mexican hat." Isolated peak near Lake Valley. Named because of its conical shape. SIERRITA (San Miguel). "Little mountain."